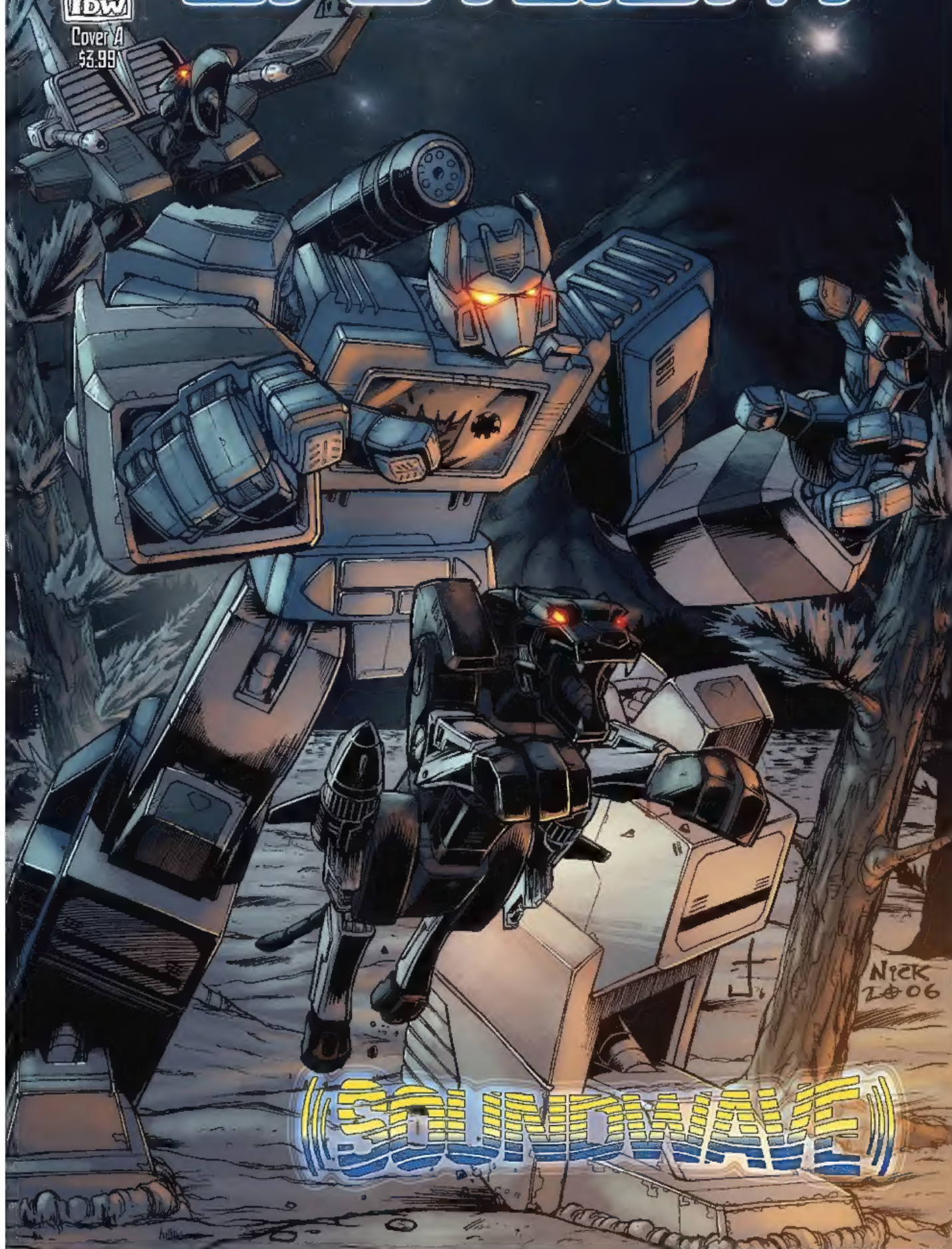




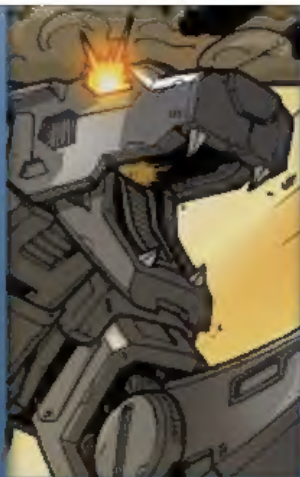
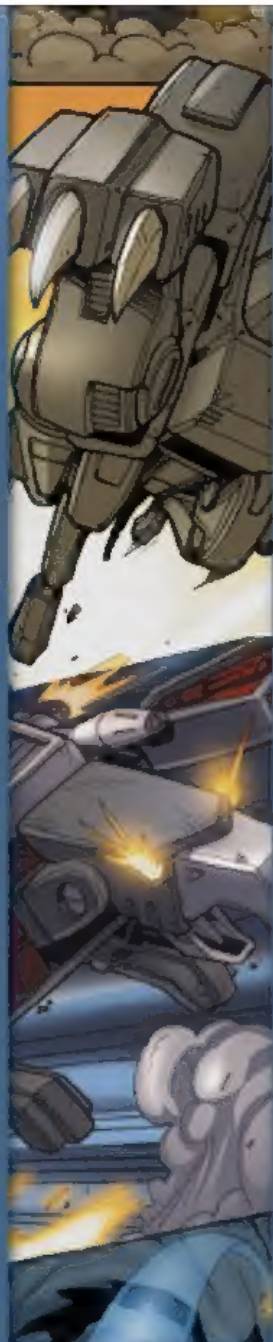
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THE TRANSFORMERS SPOTLIGHT



NICK
2006

SOUNDWAVE



He trusts no one, and no one trusts him. He appears to serve the Decepticon cause but serves himself first and foremost. Charged with policing the pumps and processors of his fellow Decepticons, he does so with zeal. To him, knowledge is power, and he knows everything there is to know about everyone... except, perhaps, himself! His name...

...IS SOUNDWAVE.



THE TRANSFORMERS: SPOTLIGHT SOUNDWAVE

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EDEN, TEXAS. 1984:

THE VIEWPOINT IS PERFECT. FROM HERE,
I CAN SEE EVERYTHING. HEAR
EVERYTHING. NOTHING MOVES...

...WITHOUT MY BEING AWARE OF IT.

WHICH IS HOW I LIKE IT.
AFTER ALL...

...INFORMATION IS POWER.

WHEREAS THIS...

...AND
I KNOW YOU,
BABY, YOU, IT'S
TIME TO JUMP,
GOTTA ROLL OUT
NOW AND START
TO...

...IS JUST NOISE.



FIVE DAYS NOW I'VE BEEN AMONGST THEM. THREE SWEATING, GRASPING CREATURES...

...WATCHING THEM STRUT, FULL OF THEIR OWN SELF-IMPORTANCE, WHILE PRIVATELY BEMOANING THEIR WORTHLESS LIVES.



THE URGE TO SIMPLY PUT THEM ALL OUT OF THEIR PETTY MISERIES WAS GROWING EXPONENTIALLY DURING THAT TIME.



LUCKILY FOR THEM...



...I HAVE OTHER, MORE SPECIFIC, CONCERNS.

THOUGH THEY APPEAR HUMAN, BOTH ARE, IN FACT, FACSIMILE CONSTRUCTS, ARTIFICIAL BEINGS GROWN IN FUSION TUBES. THEY REPLACED THEIR NAMESAKES SIX DAYS AGO.

SINCE THEN THEY HAVE MAINTAINED A STEADY FLOW OF INFORMATION BACK TO THEIR CONTROLLER. ALL OF IT CENTERED AROUND A MYSTERIOUS ORE SAMPLE EXTRACTED FROM THIS EXPLORATORY DIG...

OUR INITIAL FINDINGS HAVE BEEN CROSSCHECKED AND VERIFIED.



AND?

THEIR HUSHED, CLANDESTINE UTTERANCES...

IT'S ULTRA-ENERGON. WE'RE TO MAKE OUR WAY TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT AT DUSK.

...ARE DULY RECORDED FOR POSTERITY.

ARE WE BEING RECALLED?



NO. WE'RE—

WE'RE TO BE BRIEFED ON THE NEXT—AND FINAL—PHASE OF THE OPERATION.

THERE'S... SOME ORDNANCE INVOLVED.

AT LAST, THEY HAVE BEEN SUMMONED...

...BY BLUDGEON.

YOU WILL CONDUCT A FULL AND PAINSTAKING INVESTIGATION...



...INTO ALL SHOCKWAVE'S CURRENT AND ARCHIVED PROJECTS.

I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS WORKING ON. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

VERY WELL. YOU ARE DISMISSED...

THROG!

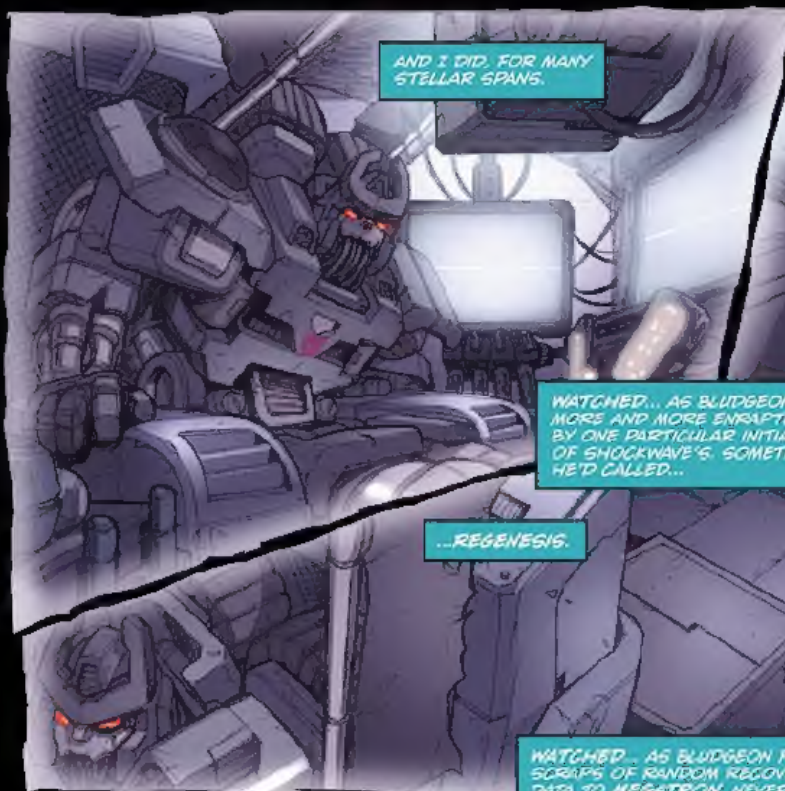
SHAM!

OH... COMPLETELY

SOUNDWAVE...

...KEEP AN OPTIC ON HIM.

YES, LORD MEGATRON.



AND I DID, FOR MANY
STELLAR SPANS.

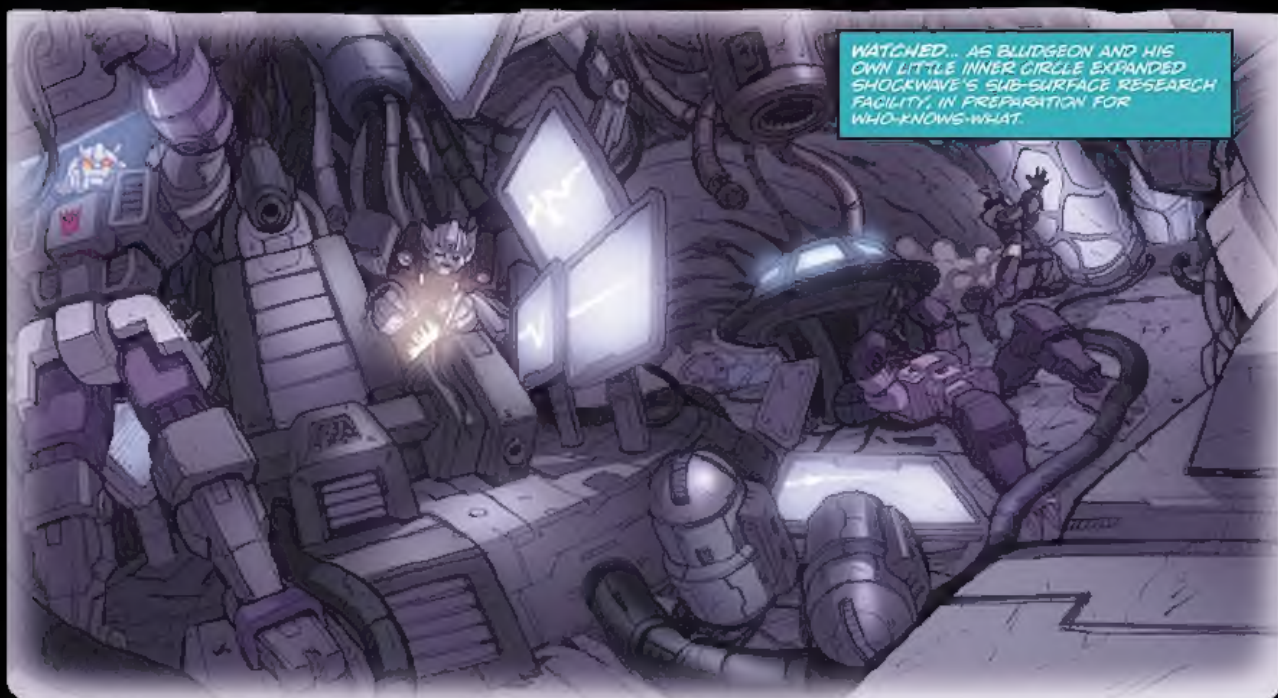
WATCHED... AS BLUDGEON GREW
MORE AND MORE ENRAPTURED
BY ONE PARTICULAR INITIATIVE
OF SHOCKWAVE'S. SOMETHING
HE'D CALLED...

...REGENESIS.

WATCHED... AS BLUDGEON FED
SCRAPS OF RANDOM RECOVERED
DATA TO MEGATRON, NEVER
ONCE MENTIONING REGENESIS.

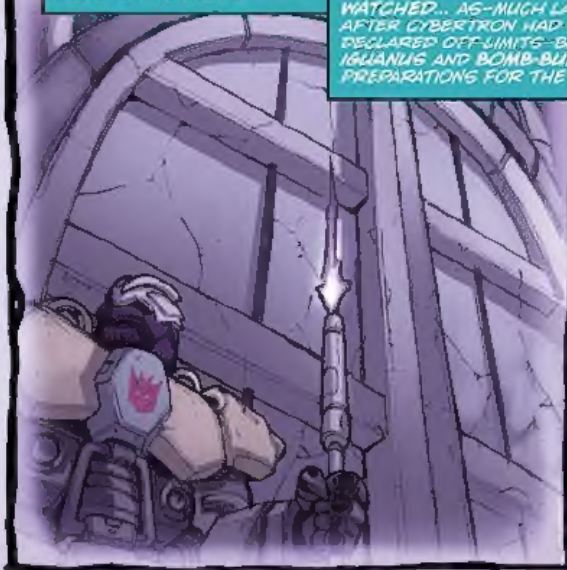


BY THE SAME TOKEN,
NEITHER DID I.



WATCHED... AS BLUDGEON AND HIS
OWN LITTLE INNER CIRCLE EXPANDED
SHOCKWAVE'S SUB-SURFACE RESEARCH
FACILITY, IN PREPARATION FOR
WHO-KNOWS-WHAT.

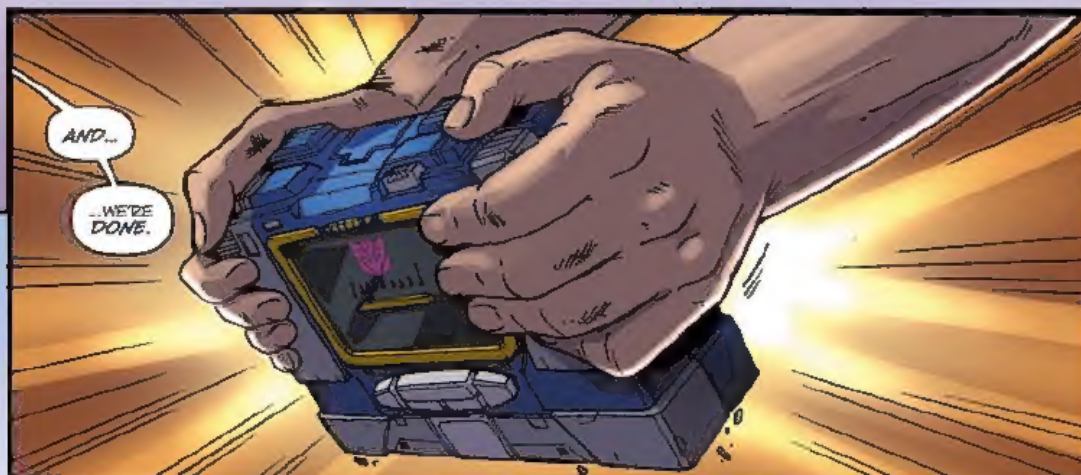
WATCHED... AS SOMETHING WAS
RECOVERED FROM CYBERTRON'S
DEPTHS AND THEN SEALED BEHIND
BLAST DOORS AND GUARDED
AROUND THE CLOCK.



WATCHED... AS--MUCH LATER, WELL
AFTER CYBERTRON HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY
DECLARED OFF-LIMITS--BLUDGEON,
IGUANUS AND BOMB-BURST MADE
PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY...



...TO EARTH.



AND...

...WE'RE
DONE.



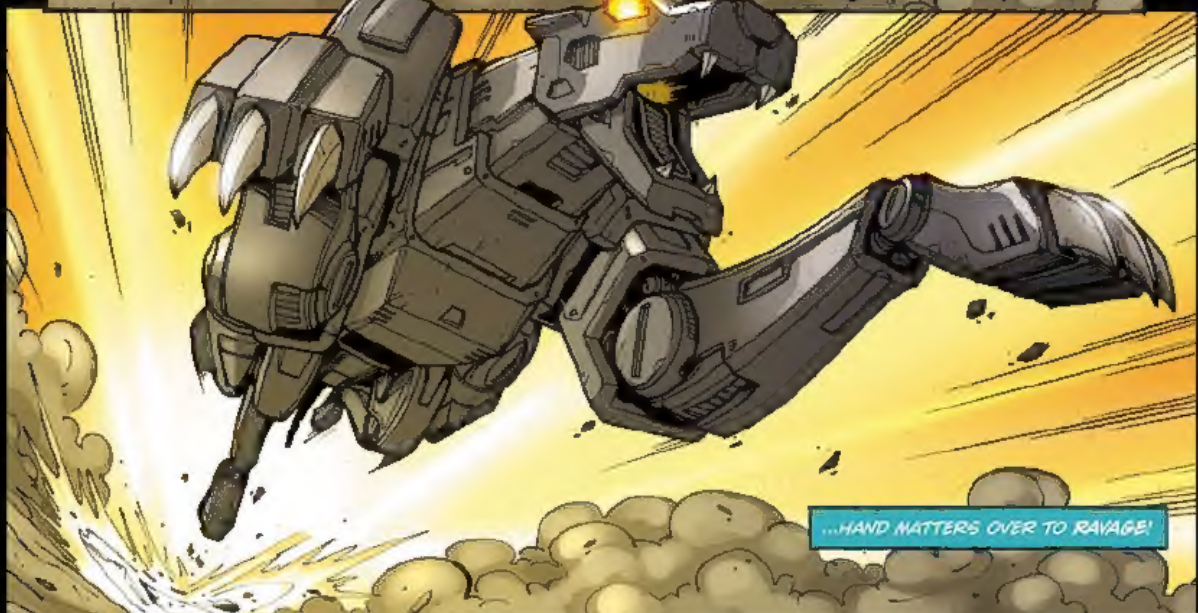
DON'T KNOW
'BOUT YOU, HIRO,
BUT AH'M HEADED
STRAIGHT TO THE
LOCAL WATERING
HOLE.

THANK YOU FOR
THE INVITATION,
BUD-SAN, BUT HAVING
SPENT ONE EVENING
IN YOUR 'WATERING
HOLE'...



...I FIND I HAVE
NO GREAT DESIRE
TO REPEAT THE
EXPERIENCE.

EH, SUIT
YOURSELF.





AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, FAR FROM THE NEAREST HUMAN SETTLEMENT, THEY'RE MET.



AT WHICH POINT...

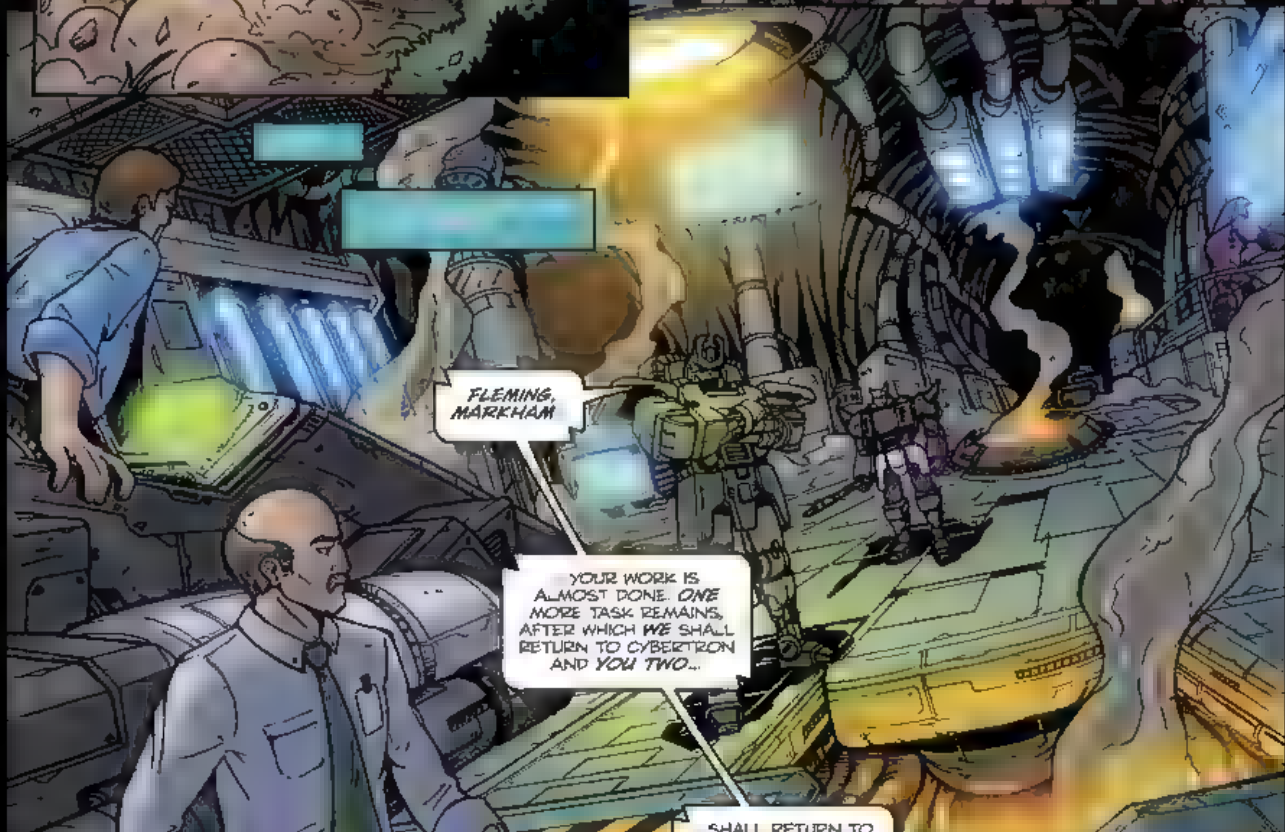
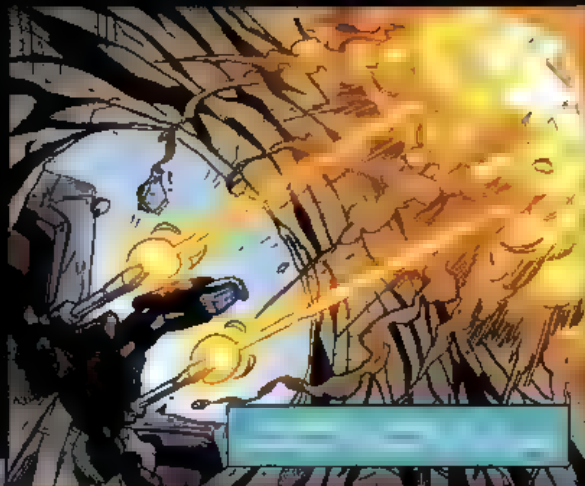


...LASERBEAK TAKES OVER.

HE FOLLOWS, HEADING NORTHWEST...



...TO MOUNT ST. HELENS, NEAR THE REGION KNOWN AS OREGON.



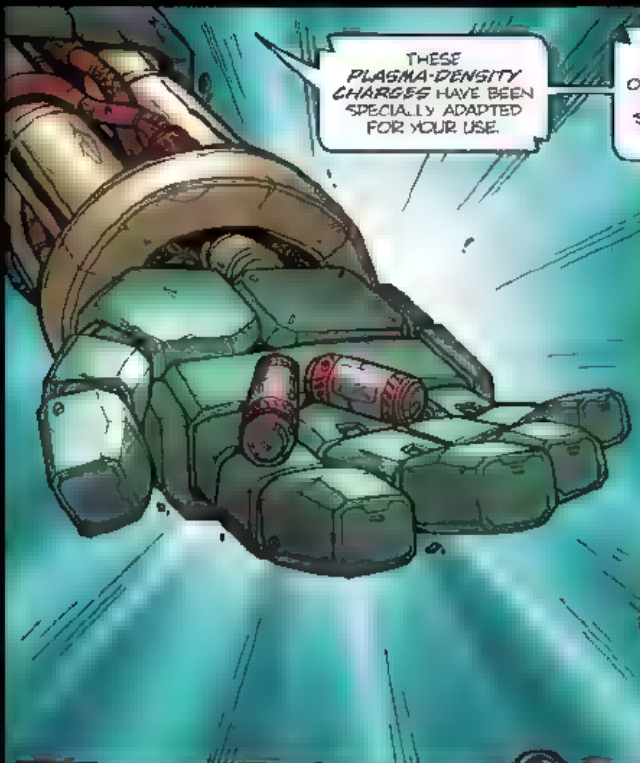
FLEMING,
MARKHAM

YOUR WORK IS
ALMOST DONE. ONE
MORE TASK REMAINS.
AFTER WHICH WE SHALL
RETURN TO CYBERTRON
AND YOU TWO...

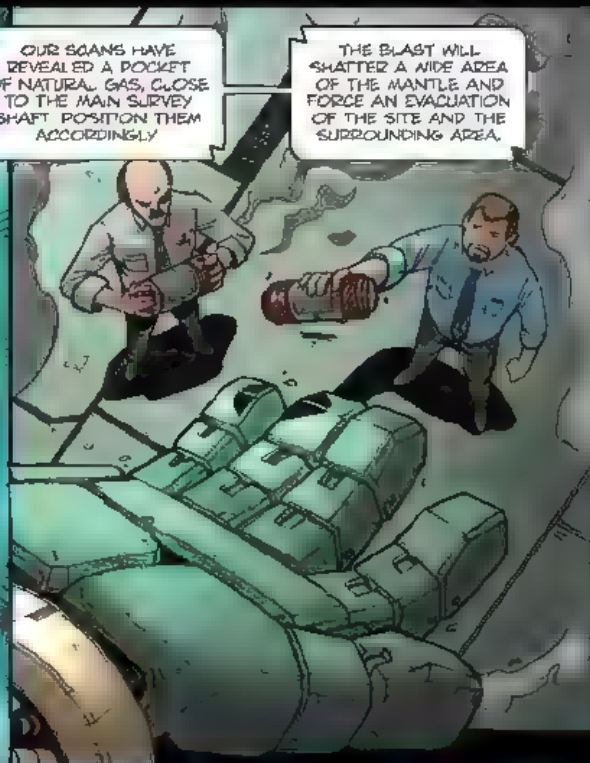
SHALL RETURN TO
THE OBLIVION FROM
WHENCE YOU CAME.



WE
UNDERSTAND

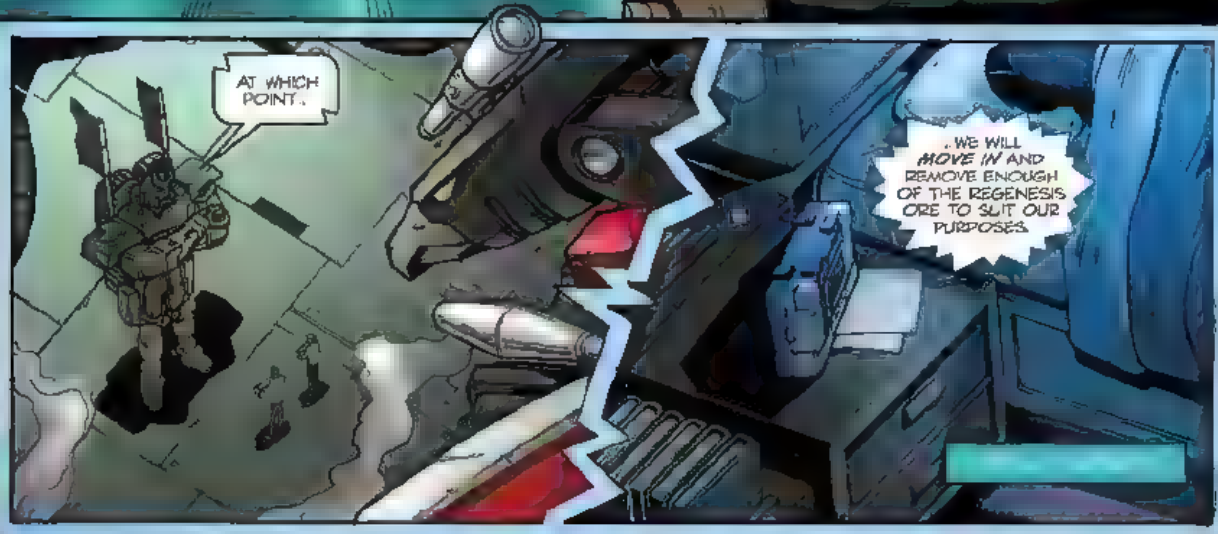


THESE
PLASMA-DENSITY
CHARGES HAVE BEEN
SPECIALLY ADAPTED
FOR YOUR USE.



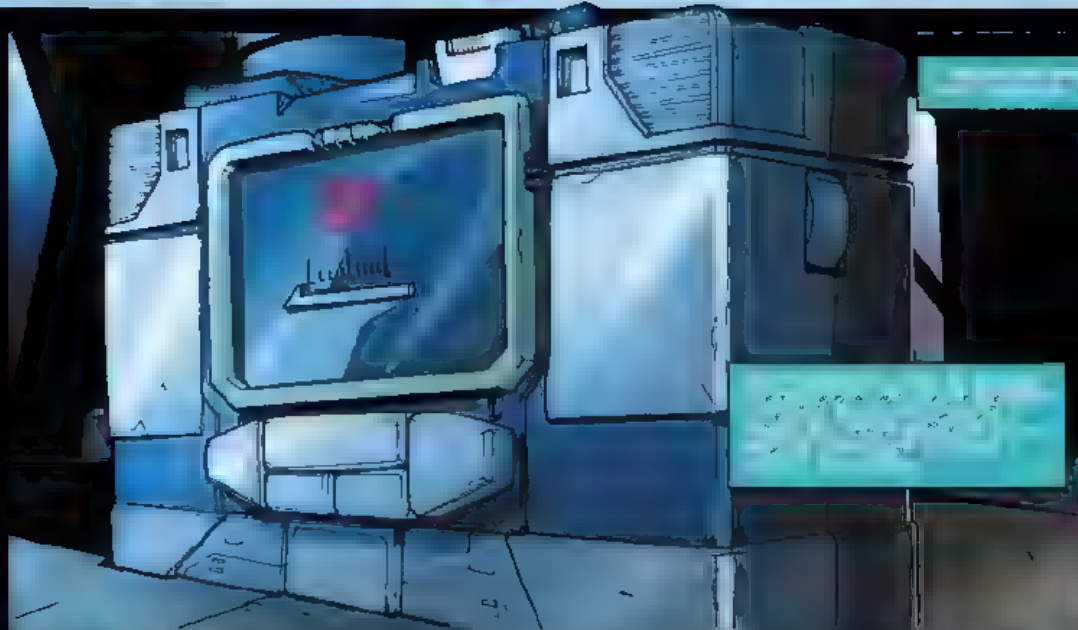
OUR SCANS HAVE
REVEALED A POCKET
OF NATURAL GAS, CLOSE
TO THE MAIN SURVEY
SHAFT. POSITION THEM
ACCORDINGLY.

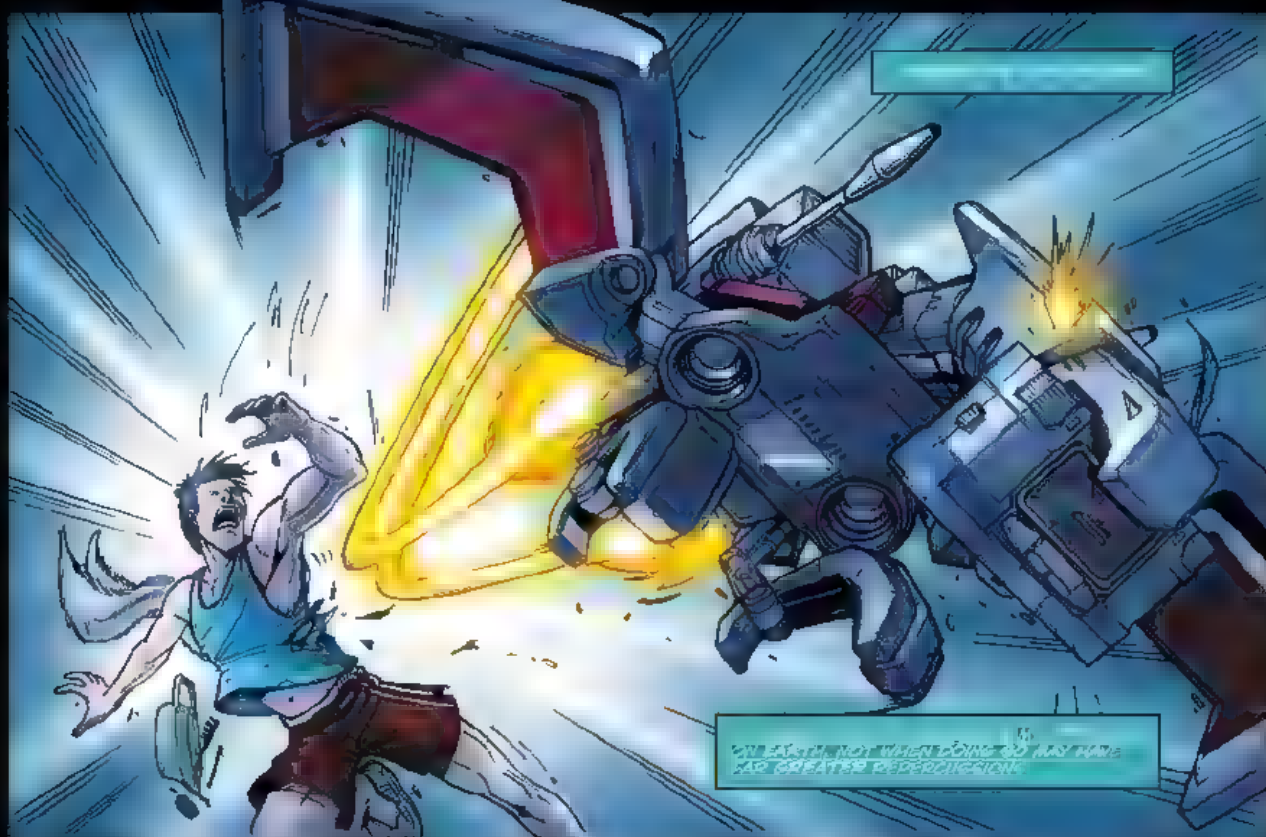
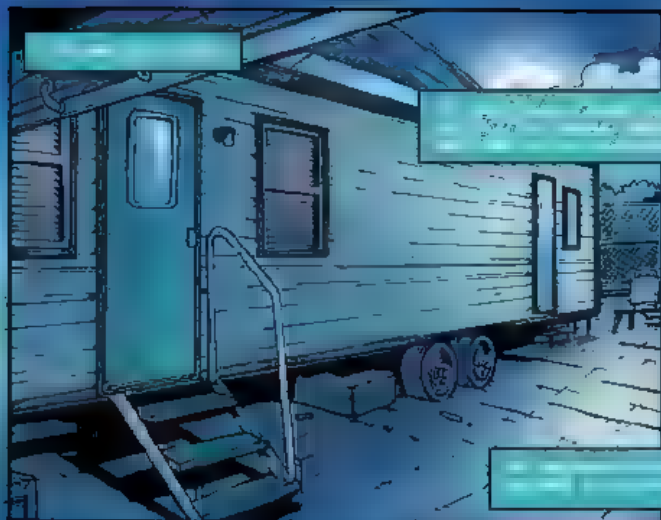
THE BLAST WILL
SHATTER A WIDE AREA
OF THE MANTLE AND
FORCE AN EVACUATION
OF THE SITE AND THE
SURROUNDING AREA.



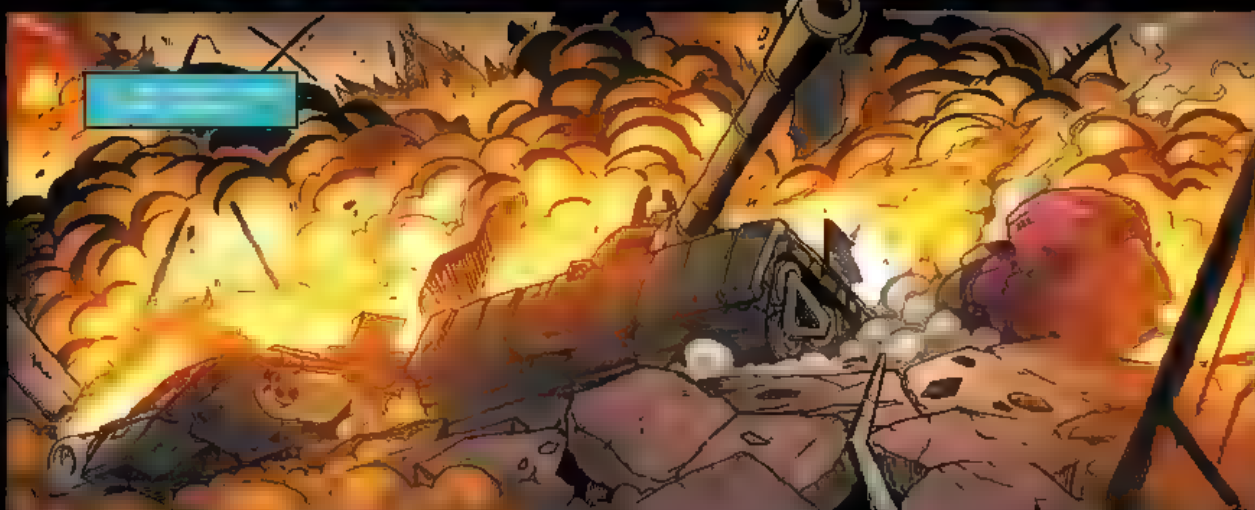
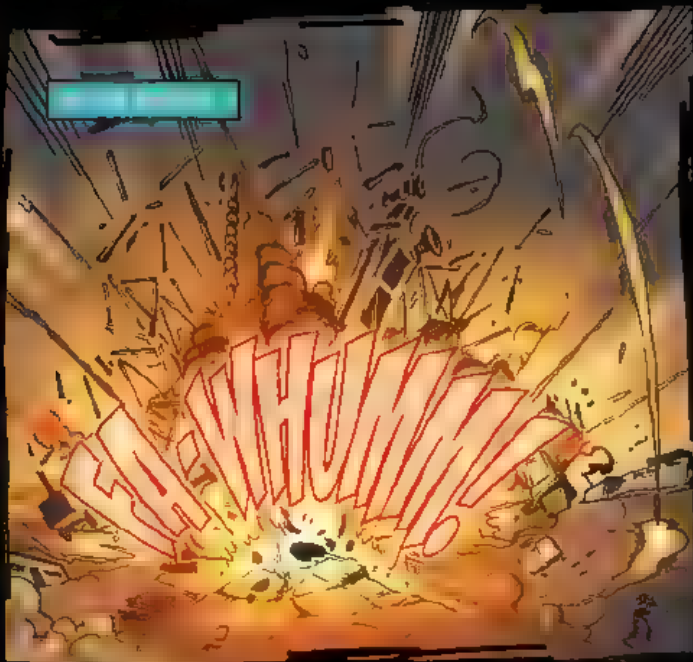
AT WHICH
POINT.

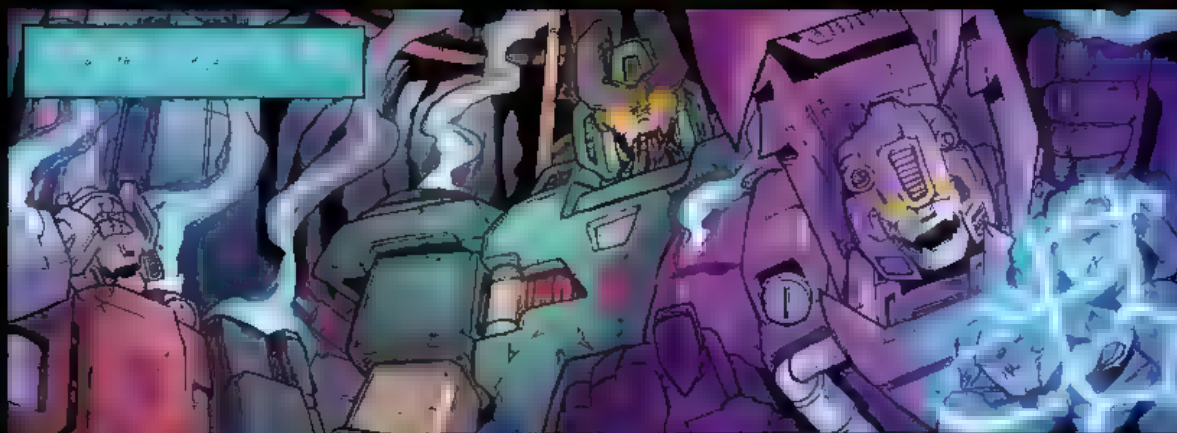
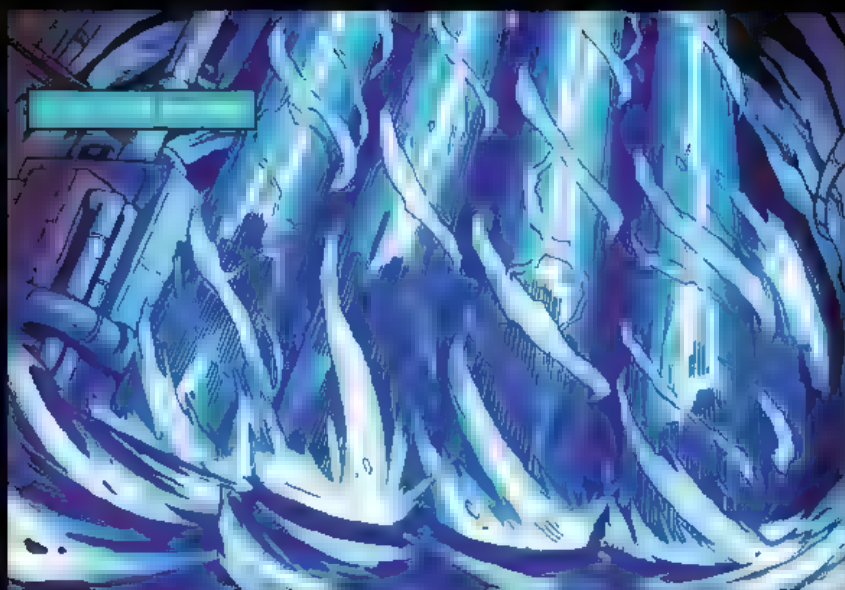
WE WILL
MOVE IN AND
REMOVE ENOUGH
OF THE REGENESIS
ORE TO SUIT OUR
PURPOSES.

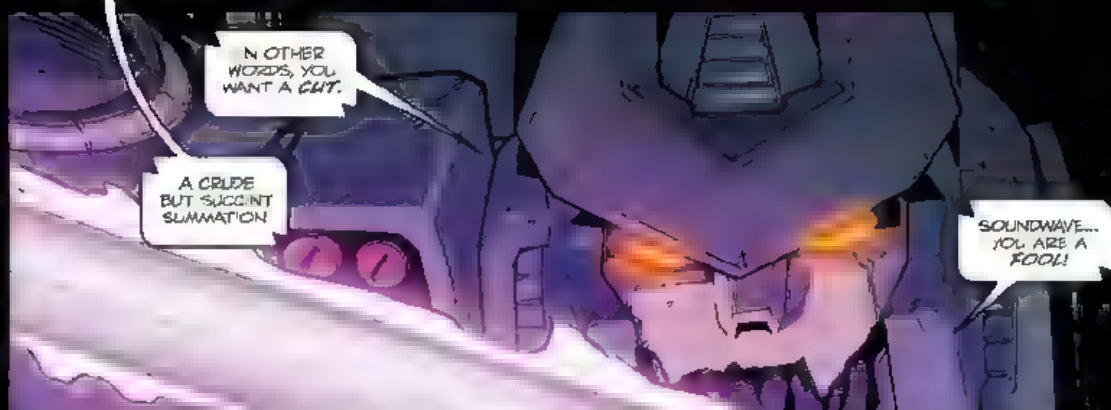
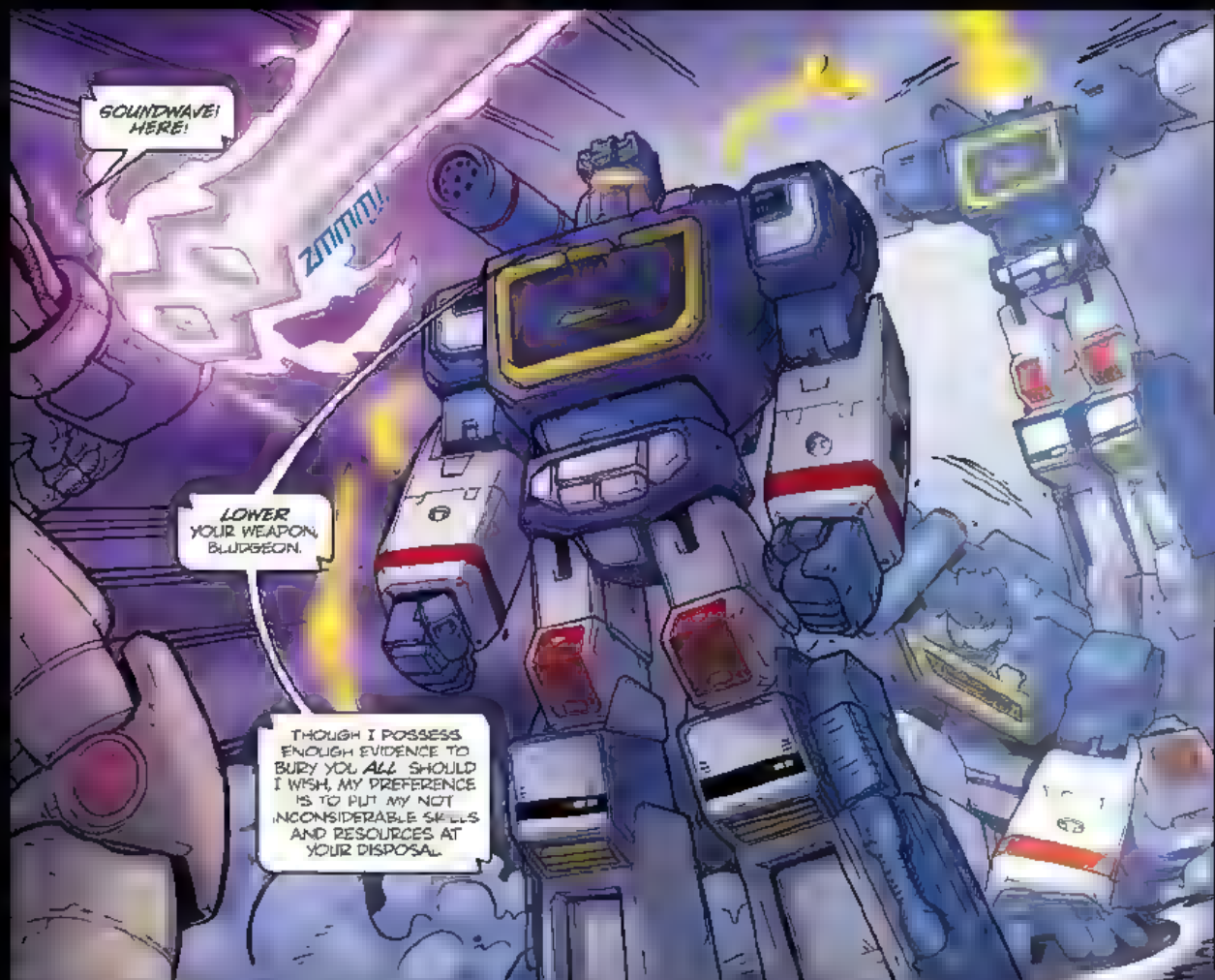


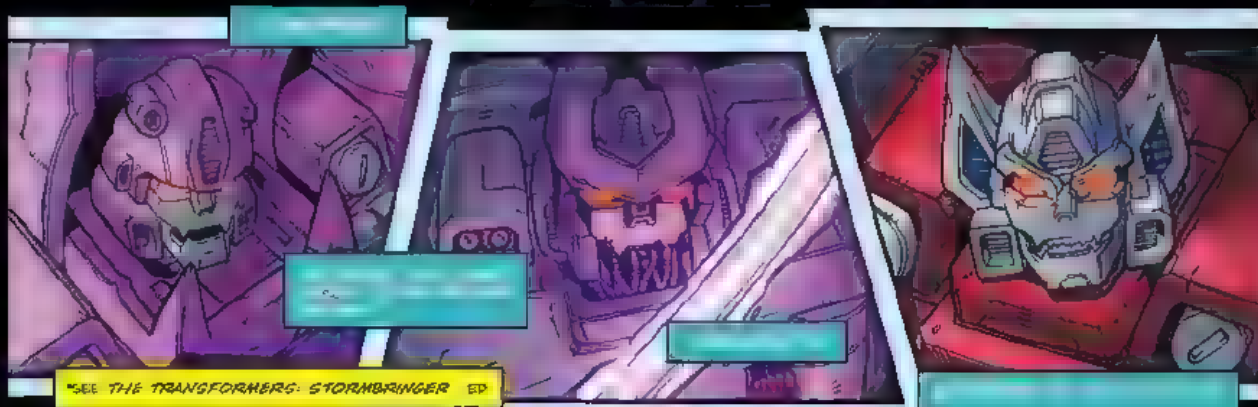
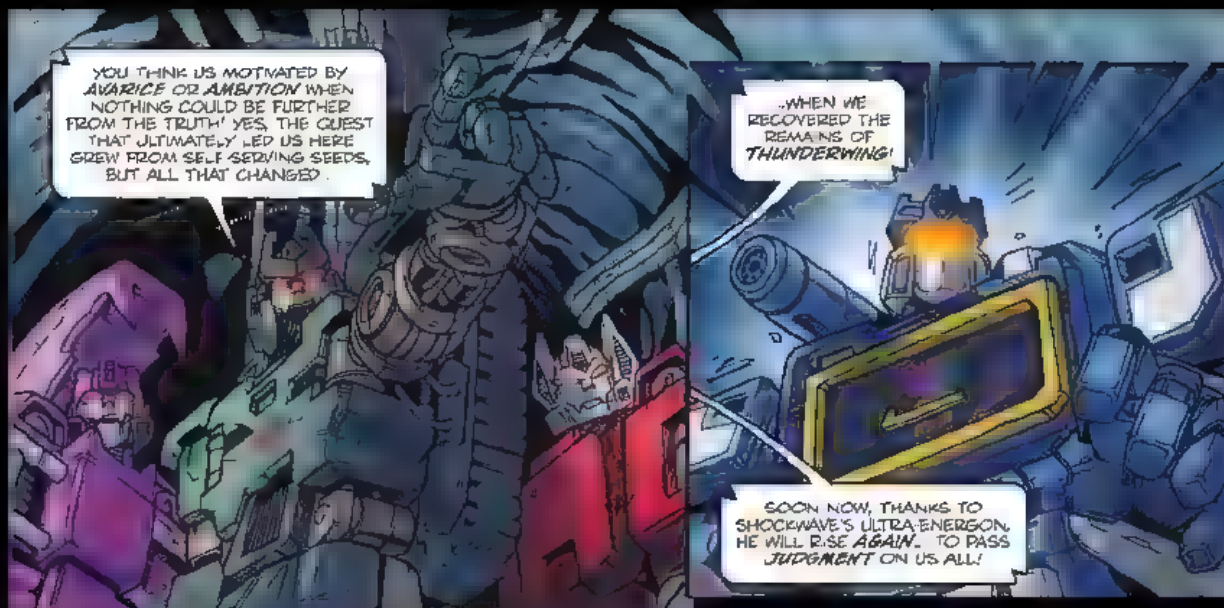


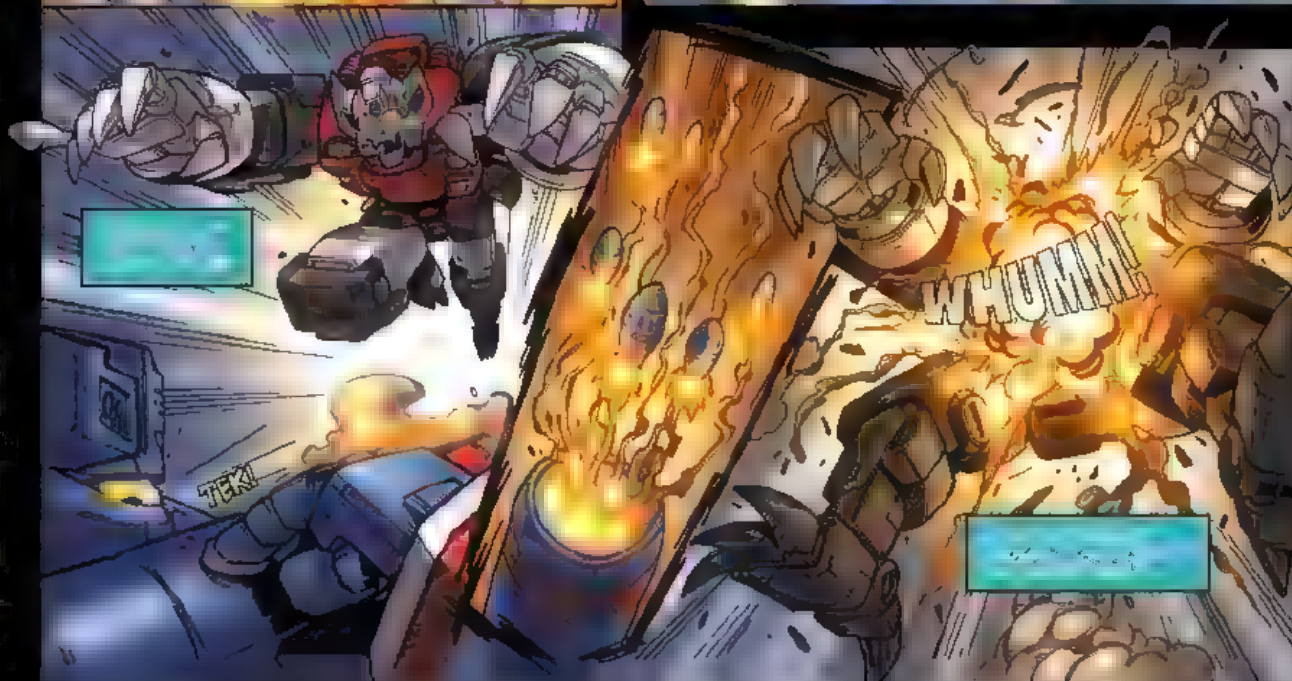
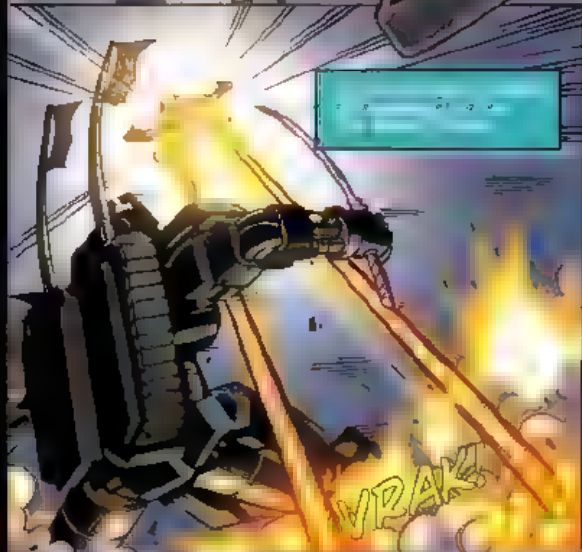
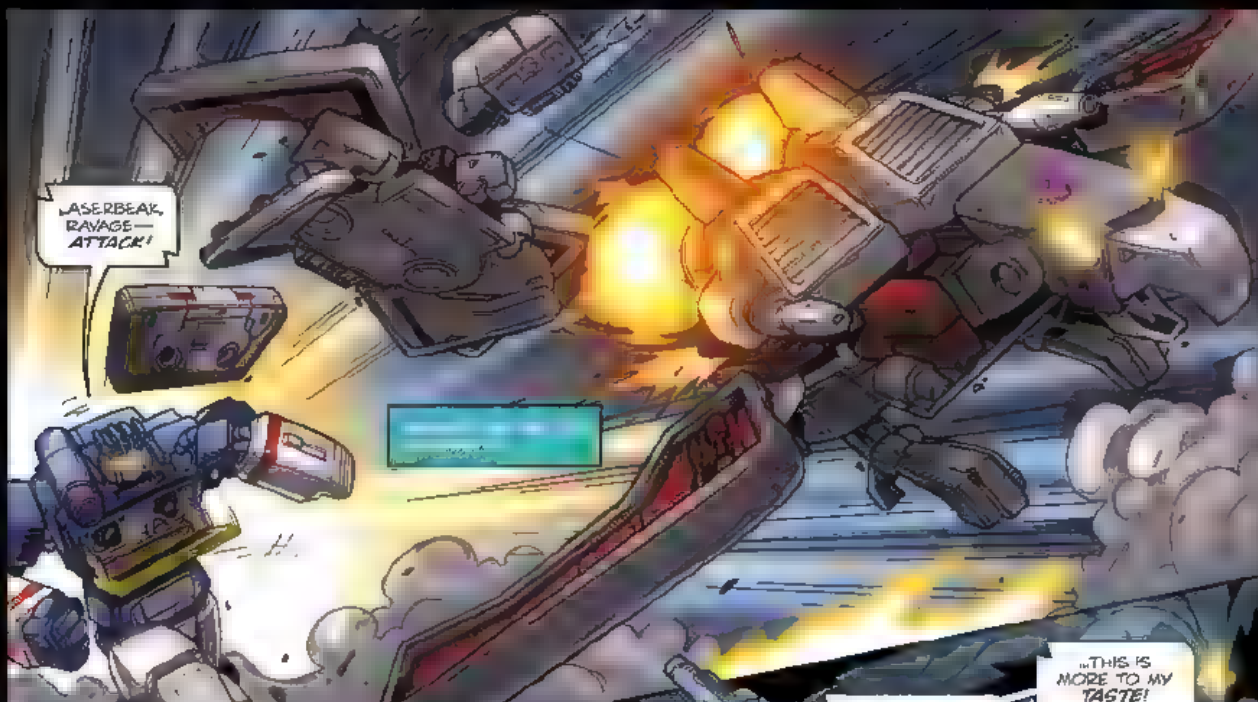
ON EARTH, NOT WHEN DOING SO MAY HAVE
LAD GREATER REDEMPTION.

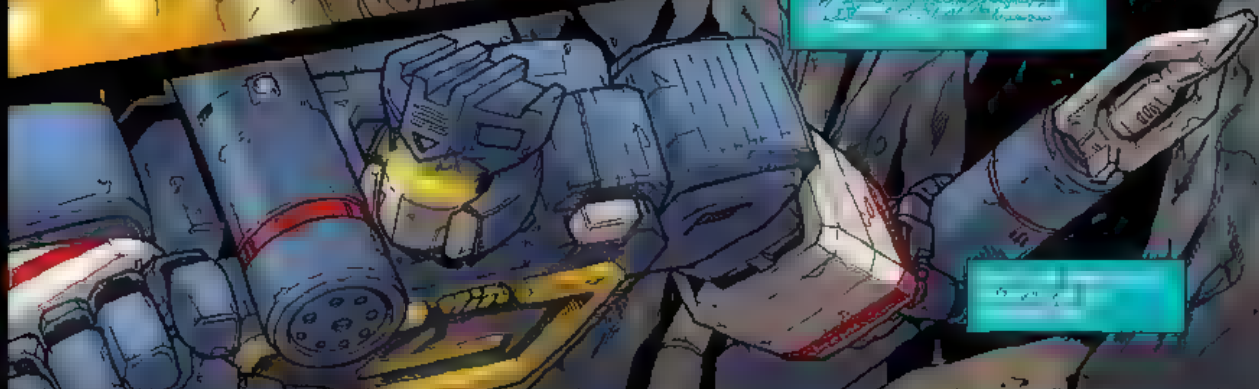
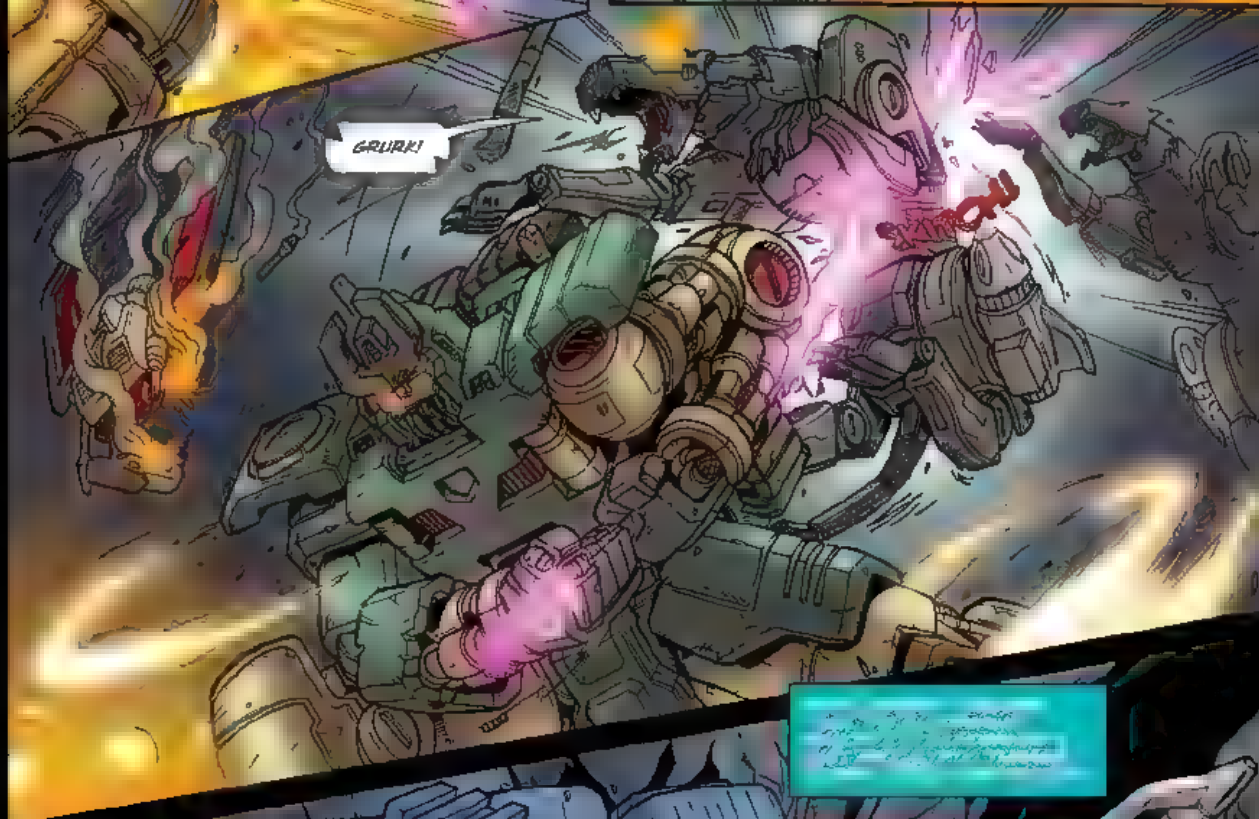
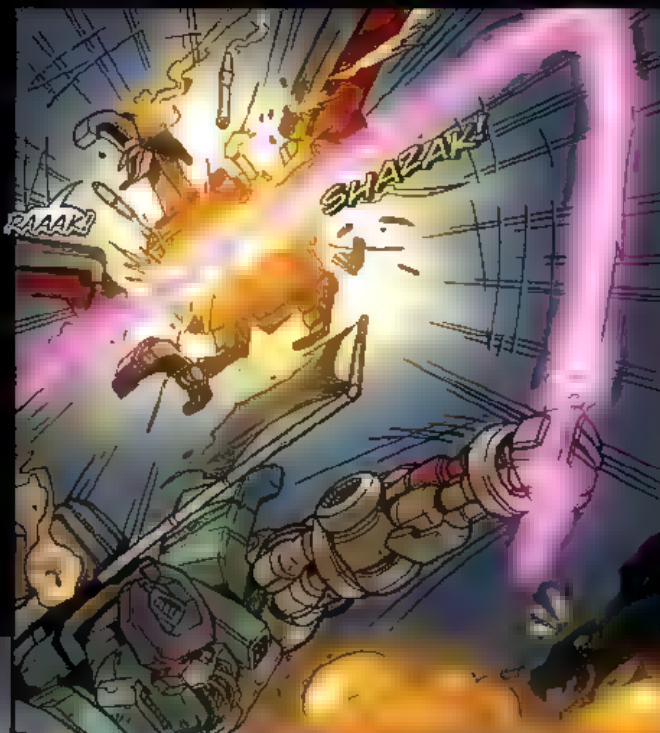
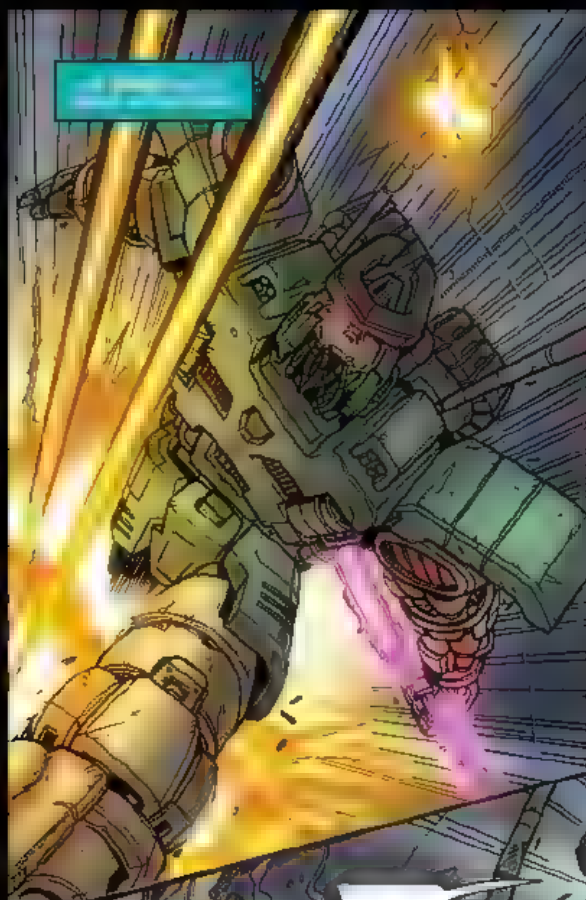


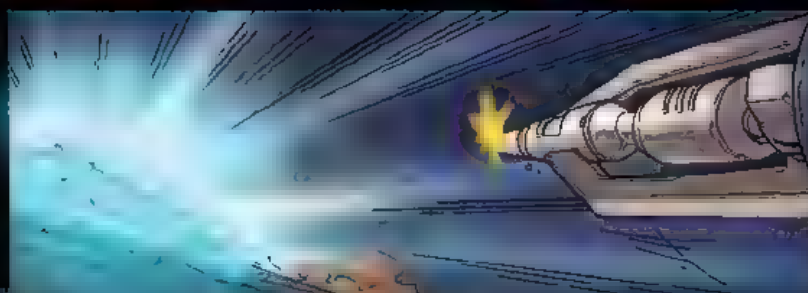
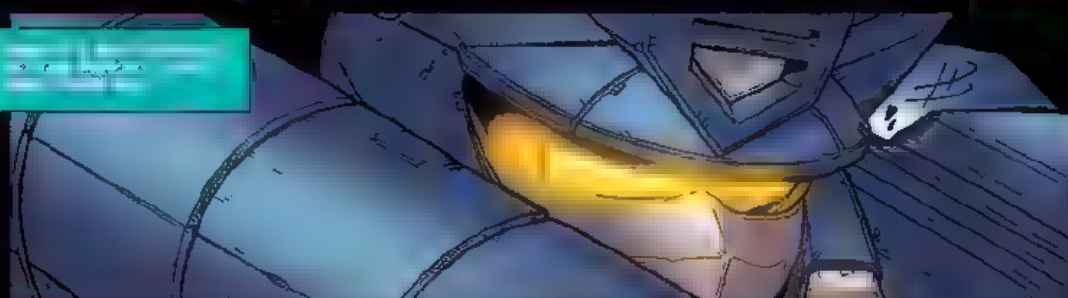
















IN YOUR CASE, I'D
IMAGINE THAT'S A
CONSIDERABLE
INCONVENIENCE.

STILL...



...YOU WON'T
HAVE MUCH TIME TO
REFLECT ON YOUR
PREDICAMENT.



WE'RE DONE HERE.

LET'S GO...



I REMAIN ACUTELY,
PAINFULLY AWARE AS THE
PLASMA-DENSITY CHARGE...



EPILOGUE 1:
MOUNT ST. HELENS, 1985.

SKYWATCH.

JOSHUA RED:

THERE, NOW. IF
THAT DOESN'T
GET US OUR
FUNDING...

...NOTHING
WILL!

EPILOGUE 2:
PORTLAND, OREGON, 2007.

THERE,
SEE, IT'S A
CLASSIC.

CLASSIC? IT'S
JUNK, PURE
AND SIMPLE.

BUT HEY, GO
ON, WASTE YOUR
MONEY IF YOU
WANT TO...

...I'M STICKING
WITH MY I-POD!

THE END?